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WILL OF CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON, 1693.

[Christopher Robinson, whose will is here printed from a certified copy in the possession of a descendant, was son of John Robinson, of Cleasby, Yorkshire, England, and brother of John Robinson, Bishop of London. He was born at Cleasby, about 1645, and came to Virginia about 1666, settling at an estate on the Rappahannock, in Middlesex county, which was later called "Hewick." He was a member of the House of Burgesses for Middlesex in 1691, was appointed to the Council in the same year, and Secretary of State in 1692. He married (1) Agatha, daughter of Bertram Obert (who seems to have been the mother of all of his children), and (2) Catharine, widow of Major Robert Beverley. Of his sons, John (1683-1749), was President of the Council, and acting Governor, and Christopher, of "Hewick" (1681-1727), was member of the House of Burgesses. A lengthy note (chiefly derived from the records of Middlesex), on Christopher Robinson and his children, was published in this Magazine, in July, 1898. Those interested in agriculture will note the "ingine" for drying tobacco, which is mentioned.]

In the Name of God Amen. I, Christopher Robinson, of the County of Middlesex in Virginia, being by God's great Mercy, in perfect Sense and Memory, but considering the frailty of Man nature and vncertainty of the time of my Death, Doe make and ordain this my last Will & Testament in manner and Forme following, hereby Revoaking and making Voyde all former wills by me made. And first I bequeath my Soule into the hands of God that gave it, and my Body to the Earth from whence it was taken, to be decently buried at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter named, hoping for a Joyfull Resurrection through the great Mercyes of God, and the Merritts of my Blessed Saviour Christ Jessus, and for such worldly Goods as it hath pleased God, farr beyond my deserts to bestow upon me, I dispose of the same in manner following:

Item. My will is that all my just debts that I justly owe to

any person or persons, and my reasonable funeral Charges be first paid and satisfied.

Item. My will, mind and desire is that all the rest and residue of my Estate whatsoever and wheresoever the same be, Except Such Legacies as I may hereafter give and dispose of by this my will, that be remaine and continue intire and undivided, and be Employed, ordered and managed to and for the joynt and equall advantage, interest and Profit of all my Dear children in common and equity.

My Dear sons Christopher, John and Benjamine, and Dear Daughters Ann, Agatha, Elizabeth and Clara Robinson, in such manner as the same are or have usually been ordered and managed and Employed by me, or as shall by my Executo^r and Overseers of this my will, hereafter named, seeme to be most for the Common Interest and profit of my said Dear Children; My desire and meaning being that all or so many of my negroes, slaves or servants as my Executo^r shall from time to time think necessary and Convenient, be continued and Employed upon my severall plantations in Middlesex County and Essex County, intending and making crops of Corn and Tobacco, or and about such other worke and Employment as may be most profitable and of greatest advantage to my said Deare Children, and to cause soe much as they my s^d Execut^r or overseers shall think fitt of the Crops of Tobacco to be cutt and Dryed wth the Ingine I have commonly used and all the said Cropp of Tobacco either Cutt or in the Leafe to sell and dispose of in the Country, or shipp and freight the same or any part thereof and Consigne it from time to time to such Credible person or persons and at such places as the Said Executo^r or Overseers of this my will shall think may be most profitable for my said Children, and the produce or Effects of all such Tobaccos and the profitts of all my said Estate to cause to be secured in Money in good responsible hands, or so much as is reasonable and necessary to be returned to this County in Goods and necessities for the decent and necessary Cloathing and accomodating my said Deare Children, and as the same will reasonably afford as also necessary cloathing and working Toolles and other conveniences for my said Negroes and servants, and for the defraying workemen's wages, leavys and all other necessary charges as they shall from time to time

see fitt and reasonable. My Desire and Meaning being that my said children should be menteyned and Cloathed in decent manner and proportionable to there age and p'ssent Circumstances, without Lessening or Impairing my said Estate wth I hope by God's blessing and the Frugall and friendly care of my loveing friends that I intrust wth the same, will be improved and for there greater Ease therein and better management of the said Estate, my will and desire is that my said Executo^r or Overseers of this my will or the greater part of them doe from time to time as they see occasion, Imploy and appoynt Overseers at my several plantations or one or more person or persons to Looke after and manage, and take Acc^t of all things Relating thereunto, and to make such agreements and make such allowances in wages or otherwise as they shall see fitt and Convenient, and as they see cause any of the said Negroes and servants, or stock of Cattle, horses or other part of my Estate, and dispose of they think may be most to the advantage of my said Children, and Generally to doe all reasonable and necessary things relating to the p'misies.

Item. I give and bequeath to my said Deare Children, to each of them an Equall part and portion of my said personal Estate (Except the Legacies hereafter mentioned), as alsloe an Equall parte of the Increase and Profitts of the same, to be taken and Received by my said Sonns when they shall attaine to the age of twenty-one Yeares severally, as they come to that age. And to be taken and Received by my said Daughters as they shall attaine the said age of twenty-one years or the day of there Marriage which shall first happen, the said equall parts and portions to be delivered severally to my said children by the discesion and consent of the Overseers of this my will or the comon agreement of my said Deare children, and in case any doubt or difference should arise about the same, my earnest desire and charge to all my said Children is that they agree and End the same in a Loveing manner either amongst them selves or by the advice and Derection of the Overseers of this my will or other Indifferent Persons wthout goeing to Law.

Item. I give to my Loveing Sonne John Robinson, Fifty pounds, to be Employed towards the Keeping him at School in

England or in defraying the Charge of his coming to Virginia at the descretion of the Overseers of this my will.

Item. my will and minde is that all the Lands and Plantations and Mills I shall dye possessed of shal be used and Employed To and for the Common and Equall profit and Advantage of all my said Children, and the Servants, slaves and stockes of horses, cattle no^r kept and Employed upon the same at the discession of the Overseers of this my [last will] untill each of my said Children cann and may clame there part or share of my Personall Estate as aforesaid, that the same to be disposed of as is hereafter Mentioned.

Provided that my sonn Christopher soe soone as he attayne to the age of twenty-one yeares, shall be inmediately putt in possession of my now dwelling, Plantation and the whole dividend of Land thereunto belonging, to be from thenceforward held and Enjoyed for his own use and behoofe. And that my sonn John shall be alsoe soe soon as he attaines the Age of twenty-one years, possessed of the Plantation and dividends of Lands hereafter in this my will goe to him and that from those times my Said sonns Christopher and John shall not have any further shaire or Benefitt wth the rest of my said children of the remainder of my Estate Employed for their Common Interest, But only their due shaire and parts in my Personall Estate as aforesaid.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Loving sonn Christopher Robinson, all that my Plantation and dividend of Land called the Grange, scituate in Middlesex County, from and after such time as my personall Estate appoynted to be Employed on that and my other Lands for the comon Benefit of all my Children, shal be Many divided and delivered to them as they come to age or According to the Intent and Meaning of this my will as is before mentioned to him and the heires of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of such heires, to my son John Robinson, and the heires of his Body lawfully Begotten, and for want of such heires, to my Right heires forever. Provided that my sonn Christopher shall refuse to permitt my Dwelling Plantation to be used and Employed for the Comon Benefitt of all my Children untill he shall attaine to the age of one and Twenty yeares as is before Mentioned, Then the devise and Bequest to him of the said Plantation called the Grange shall cease and determine and be of

no force, and the Same shall imediateley come to my said sonn John Robinson, under the conditions and limitations aforesaid.

Item. I give and bequeath to my said sonn Christopher Robinson and to his heires forever, my water mill at the head of Sunderland Cryke and the third part of a water mill at the head Niemcock Cryke, of which he is to be Possessed when he attaynes to the Age of twenty-one yeares, untill which time my will is that all my Children shall have Equall shaire in the profitts thereof as aforesaid after all reasonable charges of Reparation, &c.

Item. I give and Bequeath to my Loving sonn John Robinson, my Plantation and Dividend of Land which was formerly Mr. Richard Parrott's, conteyning about one thousand one hundred acres of Land, scituate on Pyanhatanke River in Middlesex County, of which he is to be possessed at the Age of twenty one yeares & to his heires for Ever.

Item. I give and Bequeath to my sonn Benjamin Robinson, and to his heires for Ever, One thousand, two hundred acres of Land, to be taken out of a dividend of two thousand, two hundred acres of Land comonly called Moone's Mount, in Essex County, Purchased by me of Mr. John Curtis and a Dividend of nine hundred Acres by me Lately taken up, adjoyning to the same or out of one of them, the said twelve hundred acres to be Layd of intireley together either at the Lower end or uper End of the Said Lands and to run the full breth of the same.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughters Ann, Agatha, Elizabeth and Clara, and to their heires for Ever, all the rest and Residue of my said two dividends of Land called Moone's Mount to be Equally divided amongst them, the Eldest successiveley haveing her first Choice of One forth parte thereof.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Loving Brother, Mr. John Robinson, five pounds sterling to be disposed of at his discretion in Rings to be given to my Friends & Relations for a remembrance of me.

Item. I give and bequeath to my said Brother John Robinson five pounds sterling, to be at his discretion distribute amongst the Poore of Cliesby in York shire where I was borne.

Item. I give and bequeath to my true Friend Mr. William Churchhill my best horse and furniture.

Item. I give and bequeath to my loving [brother] Coll. John Armistead and to my Loving Sister Mrs. Judith Armistead to each of them a Ring of Twenty Shillings Vallue for a remembrance of me.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Loving Friends Capt. William Daniel, Mr. Edwin Thacker and Mr. Paul Thilman, to each of them a Ring of Twenty Shillings Vallue.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Executo^r hereafter mentioned ten pounds Sterling to be Bestowed in Rings to be distributed amongst my Friends in Virginia.

Item. I give to my Servant James Merritt a Cow and Calfe.

Item. I make and Ordaine my Loveing Sonns Christopher, John and Benjamin Robinson Executo^r of this my last will and Testament, and during their minority I hereby Ordaine and Appoynt my Loving Brother Mr. John Robinson, my loving Brother in Law Coll. John Armistead, my Loving Friends Mr. William Churchhill, Capt. William Daniel, Mr. Edwind Thacker and Mr. Paul Thilman, to take upon them the Execution of this my will for and on the Behalfe of my said Children and according to their descreSSION to order, dispose of and Employ my Estate as is herein before mentioned for the best Advantage of my Said Children untill my Said Sonns Christopher and John Shall be of full age and then together wth my Said Sonns to have the oversight and ordering and management of that parte of my Estate remaining and belonging to my younger Children as afore said, and it is my will, minde and desire that my said Brothers and Freinds whome I alsoe make Overseers of this my will have the Guardianshipp, ordering and dispoosing of all my said Children untill they shall attayne the age of twenty one years or Marry, and I charge all my children that both in their Marriage and other things they take the Advice and observe the directions of mysaid Friends, and of their Elder Brothers and Sisters after they are of Age, to which purpose I then joyne them Severally wth the said Overseers of this my will wth like power as is hereby given to them.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Loving God Daughter Agatha and Catherine Daniel, Daughters of Cap. William Daniel, one cow and Calfe a piece wth there Encrease to be delivered to them after my decease.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Mrs. Alice Nicholls, Widow, one thousand pounds of Tobacco to be paid to her p'sently after my decease, being for the care and trouble she hath taken wth me during the time of my Sickness.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Mrs. Martha Lee five pounds being for her care, paines and trouble in the time of my Sickness.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Richard Radford, my Overseer, one young horse now Running at the Grange commonly Called black Wild Catt.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto Sett my name and affixed my seale to this my Last Will and Testament Conteyned in two Sheets of Paper under Each page I have subscribed my Name this 27th Day of Jan^y, 1692-3.

CHR. ROBINSON. [Seal.]

Signed, Sealed and delivered in the pr'sence of us.

Da. Alexander,
Jeremy Dawkings,
Richard Radford,
Tho. Best.

M^d That att a Court held for the County of Middlesex the 6th day of March, 1692-3.

M^r David Alexander and Richard Radford made oath that they see the within named Christopher Robinson, Esq., Signe, Seale and Publish the within written will to be his Last Will and Testament, and that he was then in his perfect sense and memory.

Test, EDWIN THACKER, Cl. Cur.

M^d That att a Court held for the County of Middlesex the third day of Ap. 1693.

Jeremy Dawkings made oath that he see the within named Christopher Robinson Esq^r Signe, Seale and Declare the within written Will to be his Last Will and Testament and that he was then in perfect Minde and Memory.

Test, EDWIN THACKER, Cl. Cu^r.

Copy test, WILL. CHURCHHILL.